



**Michigan Association
Of**

**Gamebird Breeders & Hunting Preserves
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Jim Trinklein – President

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Non-Profit 501C (4)

May is National Mobility Awareness Month

Senate Bill 1045

Committee of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Presently it is illegal for anyone to transport an uncased shotgun in/on a motorized vehicle including mobility assist devices such as electric wheelchairs. The present law discriminates against people with walking disabilities by denying them the opportunity to use motorized mobile devices while bird hunting. Sportsmen groups like Pheasants Forever and our preserve operators will host Disabled Veteran Pheasant Hunts a couple times a year; these hunts are very limited to our veterans only. This type of hunt requires several volunteers per hunter, one to drive the vehicle, a dog handler, and a gun handler to walk next to the vehicle with the uncased loaded shotgun. When the dog goes on point the driver positions and stops the vehicle, then the gun handler gives the gun to the person with disabilities for the flush and shot. The groups that organize and the volunteers that make these hunts possible do a great service and their efforts are highly appreciated by the disabled hunters. But the vast majority of people with disabilities don't get this opportunity to hunt. You legislators can give all people with walking disabilities the opportunity to hunt upland game birds like anyone else by supporting S.B. 1045. Not only will this piece of legislation give disabled vets the opportunity to hunt upland game birds with their friends and family at will, but tying it into the Secretary of State's Disability Parking Placard will include all people with walking disabilities due to any health condition that makes them unable to walk a great distance across uneven ground.

For those with walking disabilities; a motorized mobile assist device including ORV's is nothing more than an extension to their bodies so they can move around like others.

As a member on the DNR's Accessibility Advisory Council we've had discussions on how we could get people with disabilities into the hunting fields. We agreed using state licensed game bird hunting preserves where the land is privately owned and managed, the hunts are somewhat controlled, and the game birds are plentiful with no impact on state owned land or game, would be a good starting point.

Passage of S.B. 1045 will increase hunting license sales, hunting gear purchases and could open the door to several other opportunities for people with disabilities. They could take up the hobby of owning and training a good bird dog, get involved in other shooting sports; these are great ways to spend more time in Michigan's outdoors with friends and family. People with disabilities could get involved in improving disabled friendly ORVs and more devices to safely carry uncased guns. S.B. 1045 will bring out-of-state people with disabilities to hunt upland game birds in Michigan increasing tourism.

Members of the Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserves (MAGBHP) support Senate Bill 1045. S.B 1045 will give people with walking disabilities **an opportunity never before granted in Michigan to pursue and hunt upland game birds.**

MAGBHP is Michigan's only association to represent and promote this state's game bird industry. We are a non-profit grassroots group founded in 1990, our membership includes game bird producers and hunting preserves. We are members of North American Gamebird Association, Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan United Conservation Clubs; we work with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University and other sportsmen groups.

Thank you,

Jim Trinklein, President
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